



Rail Authority Meeting

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 5:00 pm

Region 1 Planning Council, 127 N Wyman, Rockford, IL 61101

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Schablaske, Chairman; Al Caruana; Pat Agnew; Leslie West; Paul Cicero; Jake Castanza; Dianne Parvin;

Others Present: Michael Dunn, Jr.; Isidro Barrios; Gino Galluzzo; David Anspaugh; Joe Chiarelli; Karen Elyea; Amy Salamon; Molli Staroszczyk; Phil Pittsford

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Director Schablaske at 5:00 pm

2. Roll Call

All members were present.

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the Board.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of April 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Director West, seconded by Director Castanza, to **approve** the Consent Agenda. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5. Action Items

a. Vote on Resolution 2025-03: Revision to Winnebago County Rail Authority Bylaws
Motion by Director Caruana, seconded by Director Agnew, to **approve** the Resolution. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Galluzzo described updates to the bylaws since the meeting packet had been distributed. Each director was provided an updated copy.

There was no discussion. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

b. Vote on Resolution 2025-04: Election and Approval of Rail Authority Officers
Motion by Director Agnew, seconded by Director Parvin, to **approve** the Resolution. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

There was no discussion. Director Schablaske was nominated for chair, Director Castanza was nominated for vice-chair.



- c. **Vote on Resolution 2025-05:** Appointment of Isidro Barrios to Winnebago County Rail Authority
Motion by Director Caruana, seconded by Director Castanza, to **approve** the Resolution. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

There was no discussion.

- d. **Vote on Resolution 2025-06:** Approval of FY 2026 Budget
Director Schablaske asked for clarification on components of revenue and expenditures, answered by Mr. Dunn. Director Cicero, Director West, and Director Schablaske had follow up questions, answered by Mr. Dunn, Ms. Staroszczyk, and Mr. Galluzzo.
Motion by Director Caruana, seconded by Director Agnew, to **approve** the Resolution. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

6. **Guest Remarks – Winnebago County Chairman, Joe Chiarelli**
Chairman Chiarelli thanked the Authority for its work in advancing economic development. Chairman Chiarelli emphasized the importance of site readiness for the county, the Rail Authority’s role in preparing the county for economic opportunities, and his confidence in the Authority’s leadership to support the County’s initiatives.

Questions and comments followed.

7. Reports

- a. **Governance Overview & Activity Update**

Mr. Dunn and Mr. Koontz met with state of Illinois legislators this week to discuss proposed energy legislation that would impact development of the rail-served industrial park. An updated structure was discussed that ensures the project can move forward with energization as scheduled.

Mr. Dunn discussed the potential incorporation of nuclear energy at the Rail-Served Industrial Park and indicated there is a strong alignment with the State’s proposed moratorium. This incorporation would further offset the high energy requirements taken from the grid to power a data center.

Mr. Dunn answered questions from the Authority board members

- b. **Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Dunn gave a brief overview of the Rail Authority’s origin, authorities, and structure. Ms. Staroszczyk presented an update on grants to support development activities in the past six months. An archaeological survey will be completed on the rail-served industrial park site.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.



9. Adjournment

Motion by Director Cicero, seconded by Director Castanza to **adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Opportunities for public comment will be provided at all meetings. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Region 1 Planning Council at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.